



# THE VOTER **LWV**

*The official newsletter  
of the League of Women  
Voters North Pinellas*

<https://lwvnorthpinellas.org> [lwvnpc.info@gmail.com](mailto:lwvnpc.info@gmail.com)

727-386-8525 | P.O. Box 7867, Clearwater, FL 33758

## September October 2024



*LWVNPC Billboard at Serendipity Plaza, (South of Curlew Rd, US Highway 19N)*

## On my Mind...

A Message from Tanya Landry, President LWVNPC

The devastation in our area after back-to-back hurricanes is heartbreaking. Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone in our community who has experienced loss of property and, for some, entire homes. We have posted on the LWVNPC website organizations that are providing assistance and ways for people to get involved in relief efforts.

In the midst of storm clean up, the league continues its work in the community with voter education/information events. I have been thinking about a quote by Carrie Chapman Catt, a key leader of the suffrage movement:



*Everybody counts in applying democracy. And there will never be a true democracy until every responsible and law-abiding adult in it, without regard to race, sex, color, or creed has his or her own inalienable and unpurchasable voice in government.*” It’s hard to believe that this quote was from 1920 as the suffragettes advocated for the women’s right to vote. Yet, this is what this 2024 General Election is all about; at the State level advocating for fair elections, at the local level reminding voters of their right to make their voices heard through voting.

Our league may be small in comparison with other leagues, but I am so proud of the work that our Voter Services and Education Teams have done during this election season. We have been working since March, and we have tabled an impressive number of events throughout North Pinellas County, held a well- attended Pinellas County School Board Forum, made phone calls for the preparation of the Voter Guide, moderated several candidate forums and made several presentations to community groups providing information on the six Constitutional Amendments on the ballot and the importance of the Pinellas County School Referendum. We even had time to gather for an ice cream social and a coffee and doughnuts information morning at Dunedin Library. Those are just some of the amazing accomplishments of the league during this election season.

Members of our league are also participating in the Canvassing Board Monitor Project, led by All Voting is Local. Several league members will wake up early on election day and report to their post at 5:30 a.m. as election poll workers.

Thank you to our Board of Directors for your leadership, to Membership Services and to our League Secretary, Gayla Larson, who keeps it all together.

We have given our time, talent, and treasure to empower voters and defend democracy in this election. May there be peace in the aftermath and may we have in the words of Abraham Lincoln, *“government of the people, by the people, for the people, which shall not perish from the earth.”*



**Congratulations** to Diana Carsey, who led the Postcard Initiative for LWVNPC. This project, sponsored by the League of Women Voters provides information to previously incarcerated citizens who have returned to the community and wish to have their voting rights restored. Since June Diana and her group of male and female volunteers from the First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin met for six workdays and addressed post cards to 1751 Returning Citizens, working from lists provided by LWVFL. Pictured are Karen Williams, Terry Banning, Diana Carsey\*, Deb Markel, Peggy George, Susie Bradley\*, Priscilla Osewalt, Marcie Carnevale, B.J. Kennedy, Rita

Winrow, Marge Ralph, and Betty Poser. Pastor David Shelor was the photographer.

\*League Member

**And Now it Starts. . .** is an article by Beth Hovind on FL HB 1365 in the Florida. Here is an excerpt. To read the entire article, go to [article](#).

On October 2, 2014 Florida implemented the strictest anti-homeless measures in the nation. As a result of a Supreme Court ruling in Oregon (Grants Pass v. Johnson), homelessness is no longer considered a status under the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment which means it is considered voluntary. When in the past homelessness on public property was mostly allowed, now it can be regulated. And FL HB 1365 provides the means.

HB 1365 prohibits Florida cities and counties from allowing people to sleep in public places. It also allows governments to create homeless camps that are maintained to minimum standards and procedures ensuring safety, security, sanitation, mental health and substance abuse services. Residents, building owners, or the Attorney General will be able to bring civil action requiring counties or cities to not allow public camping except on specifically designated property for that use.



## Have you heard about the Florida Policy Institute?

“10 years old this year, the Institute is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit organization dedicated to advancing policies and budgets that improve economic mobility and quality of life for all Floridians.”

Do you know what is in the state 2024-25 Budget? (FPI does)

Did you know that Food Insecurity is significantly increasing in the state? FPI is petitioning the Governor to apply for additional Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to provide additional food during summer school breaks.

Did you know that child poverty took a deep dive due to the Child Tax Credit Expansion in 2021—which is no longer available. Poverty rates are up again.

The FL Policy Institute also heads up a Safety Net Coalition (SNAC) to provide statewide advocacy. Their focus is on food stamps, Medicaid, WIC and TANF. For more information on the Institute contact [Floridapolicy.org](http://Floridapolicy.org) and request to be put on their mailing list. You will be glad you did!

Submitted by Beth Hovind

## Welcome New Members

Judy Lacombe  
Michele Melrose  
Emily Tluchak  
Kathleen Butler  
Linda York

Mary Ann Keller  
Claire Cohn  
Colleen Donovan  
Casey Wilson  
Paula Trent

## Board Meeting - members welcome!



The LWVNP Board meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 4:00pm. Minutes for the September 2024 meeting can be found at: [BOARD MINUTES LINK](#)

[Please join us](#) for any upcoming Board meeting to learn how you can participate more fully. Contact Gayla Larson [nbslarson@gmail.com](mailto:nbslarson@gmail.com) to obtain the link to join these informative and busy meetings.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Education Committee



The Education Committee has been busy disseminating information on the School Referendum and Amendment 1, distributing Voter Guides, working with Pinellas County Schools, and attending monthly Pinellas County School Board Meetings. Jeanne Reynolds has been asked by Pinellas County Schools Social Studies Specialist to develop a poster on Civil Discourse to guide classroom discussions. Vivian Posey, co-chair has presented on the Take Stock in Children program. The committee has learned about a

national project focused on pre-registering high school students to vote. The committee plans to pursue another program: Voter Education Girl Scout Project later in the year. To assist with the Education Committee, contact Co-Chairs Vivian Posey at [vivposey@gmail.com](mailto:vivposey@gmail.com) or Jeanne Reynolds at [jeannewrey@gmail.com](mailto:jeannewrey@gmail.com).

### VOTER SERVICE



The Voter Service committee continues to be extremely active with many tabling events. This committee has held 12 events in September and 11 for October thus far. In addition, LWVNPC has committed to partnering with the LWVSPA to participate in the Canvas Board Monitoring Program. The Canvassing Board Monitoring Program aims to respond to election sabotage threats, such as excessive protests to mail or provisional ballots, mass voter challenges, attempts to halt or slow down the counting or processing of ballots, attempts to contest

the certification of election results, or efforts to call for unnecessary recounts and audits. For more information about Voter Service, contact Chairperson Linda Metzkw at [lindametzkw@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:lindametzkw@tampabay.rr.com)

[Thank you to all members who participated in Voter Service Events over the last few very busy months. Your dedication and stamina are much appreciated.](#)

# Spotlight: Introducing Evvy Bernstein

By Jacqueline Farrell



Evvy at National Voter Registration Day, St. Petersburg College September 17th

Just talking to Evvy Bernstein makes me wonder when she has time to sleep. Evvy is a native of Marblehead, Massachusetts. She has had many careers, including teacher of the deaf, advertising copy writer, health coach, realtor and Mary Kay Director (with a pink Cadillac.) Along the way, when living in California she managed to appear on Wheel of Fortune and come away as the winner.

Evvy says she has always been politically involved, but never more so than when she ran the Pinellas Park campaign office during the presidential election of 2012. For her, the highlight was attending the Inauguration and Inaugural Ball in Washington, DC.

Evvy chose to come to LWNPC because during these divisive times, she wanted to be part of a non-partisan

effort. She believes strongly in getting people to vote, especially young people. She has done multiple tabling events, including those aimed at registering young voters, and has volunteered for "Yes on 4." She is optimistic about this campaign not only because she has seen people excited, but actually taking action to help the "get out the vote" effort.

When not being political, Evvy is a volunteer floral arranger for Random Acts of Flowers, is in Jewish Women International, takes nature photos, sings karaoke, and is a big Bucs fan.

## RESCHEDULED- Adopt-A-Mile

New Date: Saturday, November 2, 2024



Let's come together and clean up our mile, which runs from the corner of Union and Douglas to Union and Powderhorn. Our fourth scheduled clean-up of our *Keep Pinellas Beautiful Adopt-a-Mile* at Dunedin Elementary School will take place on Saturday November 2nd, at 9:30 a.m. The cleanup activities should last an hour and a half. We will expand the time at the venue to allow for some social gathering right after the clean-up-event.

Please use the southeast parking lot, which is at the corner of Patricia and Union, and enter the parking lot from Patricia.

RSVP to [tlandry@conquestsystems.com](mailto:tlandry@conquestsystems.com) so we can bring an adequate supply of water and trash bags.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

[Calendar](#) Check our Calendar for Complete Information:

Monday October 28, 2024 4:30-5:30 PM	Education Committee Meeting via Zoom
Monday October 28, 2024 6:00-7:00 PM	Voter Service Committee Meeting via Zoom
<b>Monday, October 21- Monday, November 3, 2024</b>	<b>Early Voting, Daily, 7am - 7 pm</b> , Mail Ballot Drop-off available at secure locations.
Saturday, November 2, 2024 9:30 AM	Adopt-A-Mile Cleanup Dunedin Elementary, 900 Union St, Dunedin, FL 34698
<b>Tuesday, November 5, 2024</b>	<b>Election Day</b>
November 13, 2024 4-5:30 pm	LWVNPC Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom
Saturday, December 14, 2024, noon – 3 pm	2024 Holiday Open House – Chateaux de Bardmoor Clubhouse

For Zoom links to meetings, please contact Gayla Larson at [nbslarson@gmail.com](mailto:nbslarson@gmail.com)

For a complete listing of **Volunteer Activities**, go to <https://lwvnorthpinellas.org/calendar/>